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AM-BOKASSA 2 PARIS

ACCOUNTS OF THE CANARD REPORT WERE CARRIED ON RADIO AND IN THE THREE MAIN LEFTWING MORNING NEWSPAPERS: THE PRO-SOCIALIST LE MATIN, THE COMMUNIST L'HUMANITE AND LEFTIST LIBERATION. BUT THE MAJOR CONSERVATIVE DAILIES DID NOT MENTION THE ALLEGATIONS.

EMPEROR BOKASSA FELL AFTER AN AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL REPORT LAST MAY THAT HE WAS INVOLVED IN A MASSACRE OF SCHOOLCHILDREN. AN AFRICAN JURISTS' COMMISSION SAID LATER IT HAD EVIDENCE TO BACK THE CHARGES. THIS PROMPTED FRANCE, CENTRAL AFRICA'S BIGGEST AID DONOR, TO CUT OFF ALL BUT HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE. FRENCH PARATROOPERS FLEW INTO BANGUI AT THE TIME OF THE SEPTEMBER COUP WITH THE DECLARED INTENTION OF MAINTAINING ORDER. THE NEW PRESIDENT, DAVID DACKO, SAID HE WAS FLOWN INTO THE CAPITAL BY A FRENCH MILITARY PLANE.

THE CANARD ENCHAINE HAS OFTEN REVEALED SCANDALS BEFORE THE REST OF THE MEDIA.

IN 1972, IT PUBLISHED A SERIES OF TAX RETURNS FROM THEN PREMIER JACQUES CHABAN-DELMAS PURPORTING TO SHOW THAT HE HAD PAID NO INCOME TAX FOR FOUR YEARS.

PUBLICATION OF THE DOCUMENTS WAS WIDELY CREDITED WITH CAUSING MR CHABAN-DELMAS' FALL FROM OFFICE + P HIS FAILURE AT THE 1974 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS.

REUTER 1549

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
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